



Dear Parents and Carers,

Following further communication from the Director of Public Health for Wiltshire we will be implementing a few further measures in order to ensure we limit the spread of COVID within school. These measures are not a result of high infection rates within our school, but as a result of increasing infections amongst 11-18-year olds nationally.

### **Update on Lateral Flow Testing**

Earlier this week I wrote a letter instructing both staff and students to remain at home if they receive a positive lateral flow test. This was due to concerns we saw within the south west about the high number of negative PCR results after positive lateral flow tests.

This morning there has been a statement released detailing the reasons behind this and a likely cause. [Information on the cause of so many negative PCR's](#)

Therefore, I would ask until half term, students remain home from school and isolate for 10 days if they receive a positive lateral flow test. However, after half term, we will return to the national guidance. This means following up with a confirmatory PCR. The result of the PCR will then determine whether or not your child can return to school.

### **Current Protective Measures in School**

- Regular (Monday and Thursday) Lateral flow testing by all students and staff (please ensure this takes place).
- Students are asked to hand sanitise before and after each lesson.
- Students have the option to remain in year groups inside or outside areas at break and lunch time.
- Students have the option to wear masks both in and out of lessons.
- Students will have year group-based food areas and lunch time seating areas.
- Extra precautionary day time cleaning continues across the site.
- Increased ventilation throughout the school.

### **New Protective Measures in School, starting on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> October**

- Students are still asked to be in school by 8:30am, however there will be no 'Morning Welcome' for Years 7- 10. This will avoid a 'mass gathering'. Students are asked to go directly to their Tutor Room at 8:35am.
- Assemblies next week and the first two weeks back will be on-line.



**The John of Gaunt School**  
A Community Academy

### **Year 10 and 11 Theatre Performance of Jekyll and Hyde – Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> October**

This performance has been booked for almost a year and it is to support our young people with their GCSE English exam. Whilst we recognise it will mean year groups watching the live performance in the hall, we believe it is important to continue with it as we know it will be extremely beneficial. We will however, be asking all students (unless exempt) to wear a mask.

At the heart of all these decisions is the desire to continually try to protect our young people as best we can, whilst balancing the need to provide a first-class education for them. As always, news and information have the potential to change quickly, however I will ensure I keep you informed.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

With thanks,

Paul Skipp  
Headteacher

